

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A sterilizing agent capsule container in communication with a reduced-pressure housing of a sterilizer,

the sterilizing agent capsule container comprising:

a capsule accommodation chamber, and

a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber in an axial direction of a needle for removing a sterilizing agent, the sealed sterilizing agent capsules made of a material which the needle can pass through; and wherein a plurality of capsules are accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber and at least two of the capsules are sealed sterilizing agent capsules.

2. Cancelled

3. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules and a plurality of sealed gas capsules are alternately accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber.

4. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules and a capsule support which the needle can pass through are accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber.

5. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules and a plurality of capsule supports are alternately accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber.

6. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules, a sealed gas capsule and a capsule support

which the needle can pass through are combined and accommodated in the capsule accommodation chamber.

7. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 6 wherein the sealed sterilizing agent capsules and sealed gas capsules or capsule supports are alternately disposed in the capsule accommodation chamber and a sealed sterilizing agent capsule closest to an insert opening of the capsule accommodation chamber is supported by a capsule support movably disposed in the capsule accommodation chamber.

8. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein the sterilizing agent in the sealed sterilizing agent capsules is a hydrogen peroxide solution or a peracetic acid solution.

9. (Original) The sterilizing agent capsule container according to claim 1 wherein the sealed sterilizing agent capsules contain a gas layer therein.

10. (Original) A sterilizer comprising:

a sterilizing agent capsule container in communication with a reduced-pressure housing serving as a sterilization chamber;

a plurality of sealed sterilizing agent capsules with a sterilizing agent sealed therein to be mounted in a capsule accommodation chamber of the sterilizing agent capsule container;

a needle capable of passing through the sealed sterilizing agent capsules to take the sterilizing agent therefrom; and

a driving member for driving the needle or the sterilizing agent capsule container so that the needle can puncture the sealed sterilizing agent capsules in the sterilizing agent capsule container in an axial direction of the needle in sequence.

11. (Original) The sterilizer according to claim 10 wherein the needle has a pressing

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part for pressing a sealed sterilizing agent capsule in a direction of compression.

12. (Previously Presented) The sterilizer according to claim 10 wherein the sterilizing agent capsule container communicates with the reduced-pressure housing through a diffuser whereby when the needle punctures a sealed sterilizing agent capsule, the diffuser introduces a sterilizing agent transpired from the sealed sterilizing agent capsule.

13. (Previously Presented) The sterilizer according to claim 10 further comprising means for generating a low-temperature plasma is generated in the reduced-pressure housing.

14. (Original) The sterilizer according to claim 10 wherein the sterilizing agent in the sealed sterilizing agent capsules is a hydrogen peroxide solution or a peracetic acid solution.